

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 59

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 115

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 59—Relative to the Lieutenant Jared M. Landaker Memorial Highway.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 10, 2007.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 59, Cook. Lieutenant Jared M. Landaker Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 38 in San Bernardino County as the Lieutenant Jared M. Landaker Memorial Highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Jared M. Landaker made the ultimate sacrifice for his country when, on February 7, 2007, he gave his life while serving in Iraq in the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Landaker was born in Madera, California, on May 3, 1981, to proud parents, Joe and Laura Landaker; and

WHEREAS, Due to a possible complication at Lieutenant Landaker's birth, doctors warned Joe and Laura Landaker that their child might be mentally challenged. The doctors encouraged surgery, an option that Joe and Laura Landaker refused; and

WHEREAS, Although smaller in size than most boys his age, Lieutenant Landaker proved the doctors wrong by excelling in both academics and sports; and

WHEREAS, What Lieutenant Landaker lacked in stature, he made up for in spirit, heart, and determination, presenting himself throughout his life as a force to be reckoned with; and

WHEREAS, As a young man, Lieutenant Landaker enjoyed skiing, snowboarding, and playing baseball and football; and

WHEREAS, While attending Big Bear High School, Lieutenant Landaker played varsity baseball, served as the quarterback on the varsity football team, was an all-CIF defensive back, and was inducted into the player hall of fame; and

WHEREAS, The head football coach at Big Bear High School, Dave Griffith, considered Lieutenant Landaker not only a standout football player but also a standout person and a role model to kids. Joe Bradley, a physics teacher and baseball coach at Big Bear High School, also held Lieutenant Landaker in high regard, stating that he had never coached a kid with more heart or courage; and

WHEREAS, In homage to Lieutenant Landaker's athletic legacy at Big Bear High School, his jersey, number 15, was recently retired and an award is to be made in his honor; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from high school, Lieutenant Landaker studied physics at the University of La Verne; and

WHEREAS, Following the events of September 11, 2001, Lieutenant Landaker felt the need to do his part and decided to join the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Landaker proceeded to attend Officer Candidate School, The Basic School, and flight school. Ranking in the top 5 percent during flight training, he was awarded the privilege of selecting an aircraft. Desiring to be a part of the community, he chose the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter, an aircraft involving some of the most noble assignments in the military; and

WHEREAS, Within just seven months, Lieutenant Landaker achieved the status of Helicopter Aircraft Commander, a status that typically takes at least one year to achieve; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Landaker received a commission as second lieutenant on September 7, 2003, followed by a commission of first lieutenant on September 7, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Landaker served as a first lieutenant with the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, nicknamed "the Purple Foxes." As a medevac pilot, he airlifted wounded marines and citizens out of dangerous combat zones in Anbar province in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, On February 7, 2007, just one week before his scheduled return home, Lieutenant Landaker gave his life while flying a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter that was shot down over Anbar province; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his service in the military, Lieutenant Landaker received a purple heart, a National Defense Service Medal, an Iraqi Campaign Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Landaker was a proud American and a true patriot with exceptional kindness, thoughtfulness, and sincerity, and a paramount love for his country, family, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Landaker remains a hero to the community of Big Bear and to all who knew him; and

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That in recognition of the sacrifice made by Lieutenant Landaker for his country and the valiance with which he served, the Legislature designates the portion of State Highway Route 38 between mile markers 49.530 and 59.396 in San Bernardino County as the Lieutenant Jared M. Landaker Memorial Highway; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing that special designation and, upon

receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the author for appropriate distribution.

O